

## **H. Res. 431**

### ***In the House of Representatives, U.S.,***

*March 14, 2000.*

Whereas in February 2000, the southern Africa nations of Botswana, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe began to experience severe flooding caused by days of heavy rain;

Whereas the Republic of Mozambique bore the brunt of the torrential rains and experienced the worst flooding in 100 years;

Whereas roads, homes, bridges, the energy infrastructure, and crops were destroyed;

Whereas many towns are without potable water and the corresponding public health threat from water-borne diseases is severe;

Whereas on February 22, 2000, tropical cyclone Eline blew full force into Mozambique, exacerbating an already terrible humanitarian crisis;

Whereas continued rainfall from swollen rivers in neighboring southern African countries threatens to bring more flood waters into Mozambique;

Whereas thousands of Mozambicans have lost everything and are in desperate need of water, food, and shelter;

Whereas in 1992 Mozambique ended a bloody 16 year civil war and has made substantial progress on democratic freedoms and multi-party elections;

Whereas Mozambique is one of the world's poorest countries where 27 percent of all babies born die before the age of 5;

Whereas the flooding has virtually wiped out the significant economic recovery the Mozambican people have worked hard to achieve over the last 8 years;

Whereas large segments of Mozambican crops were spared from the cyclone and flooding and could be utilized to feed needy citizens later this year;

Whereas the Government of Mozambique will require massive international assistance over the next 90 days and the growing international relief effort must remain on high alert for the next several weeks;

Whereas prior to the flood disaster, Mozambique was one of the first countries to qualify for benefits under the World Bank/IMF Heavily Indebted Poor Countries initiative; and

Whereas the total amount of Mozambique's external debt is \$5.3 billion: Now, therefore, be it

1       *Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

2               (1) commends the Government of the Republic  
3       of South Africa for its quick response and assistance  
4       to the Mozambican people;

5               (2) commends the Government of the United  
6       Kingdom for announcing debt cancellation for Mo-  
7       zambique so that precious financial resources may

1 be dedicated to the national relief and recovery ef-  
2 fort;

3 (3) commends the Administration for its grow-  
4 ing involvement and leadership in coordinating  
5 America's disaster assistance package to the Repub-  
6 lic of Mozambique;

7 (4) supports the efforts of the United States  
8 Government to assist in coordinating international  
9 efforts to help the Republic of Mozambique salvage  
10 what remains of this year's food crops and to pro-  
11 vide seeds for rural agricultural growers;

12 (5) encourages the international community to  
13 continue to provide emergency relief, airlift capacity,  
14 and other disaster assistance to the Republic of Mo-  
15 zambique for the next 90 days;

16 (6) urges the international community to take  
17 all necessary steps to locate and demarcate areas  
18 that may now harbor semi-buoyant plastic land  
19 mines transported to new locations by the flooding  
20 in Mozambique;

21 (7) requests that the international community  
22 develop a coordinated response to the Government of  
23 Mozambique's request for recovery and reconstruc-  
24 tion assistance for buildings and transportation in-  
25 frastructure;

1           (8) encourages the international community to  
2       assist the nations of southern Africa to increase  
3       their capacity to respond to national emergencies  
4       and natural disasters; and

5           (9) urges the International Monetary Fund and  
6       other international creditors to fully accelerate debt  
7       reduction efforts with respect to Mozambique's ex-  
8       ternal debt in the aftermath of the severe flooding.

Attest:

*Clerk.*